

To: Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]
From: Distefano, Nichole
Sent: Wed 8/19/2015 7:26:16 PM
Subject: RE: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Yes!

Nichole Distefano

Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-5200

Distefano.Nichole@epa.gov

From: Vaught, Laura
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Distefano, Nichole
Subject: FW: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

This all very helpful. We can discuss later.

From: Poirier, Bettina (EPW) [mailto:Bettina_Poirier@epw.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:22 PM
To: Vaught, Laura
Subject: Re: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Jewish holidays an issue. Boxer flying the 16th and out the 22nd. 22nd major holiday. You may want to consider that in plan.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2015, at 3:19 PM, Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

I just went back and looked at his e-mail – it says 15 or 16th – so he had both dates in his note.

From: Poirier, Bettina (EPW) [mailto:Bettina_Poirier@epw.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:18 PM
To: Vaught, Laura
Subject: Re: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Doesn't sound like 15th makes sense given schedule, they start late most likely on the 15th

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2015, at 3:11 PM, Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

I honestly don't know yet on the 15th – I haven't had a chance to talk to her or to the schedulers, but will keep you posted.

Nonresponsive

And I'll loop with folks here on the Good Sam thing too – thanks.

From: Poirier, Bettina (EPW) [mailto:Bettina_Poirier@epw.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 3:08 PM
To: Vaught, Laura
Subject: Re: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Thanks. Does the 15th look likely? We dont support cwa waiver based good sam. You should talk to ken about what epa has done administratively so gina up to speed.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 19, 2015, at 3:05 PM, Vaught, Laura <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks – by the way – Ryan asked me to check Gina’s availability for a hearing on the Colorado spill in mid-September (the 15th I think).

Nonresponsive

From: Poirier, Bettina (EPW) [mailto:Bettina_Poirier@epw.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Kopocis, Ken; Vaught, Laura
Subject: Fwd: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Fyi.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bacher, Kathryn (EPW)" <Kathryn_Bacher@epw.senate.gov>
Date: August 19, 2015 at 2:04:00 PM EDT
To: "Poirier, Bettina (EPW)" <Bettina_Poirier@epw.senate.gov>, "Kerr, Mary (EPW)" <Mary_Kerr@epw.senate.gov>, "Gilman, Kate (EPW)" <Kate_Gilman@epw.senate.gov>, "MacCarthy, Colin (EPW)" <Colin_MacCarthy@epw.senate.gov>, "Albritton, Jason (EPW)" <Jason_Albritton@epw.senate.gov>, "Illston, Ted (EPW)" <Ted_Illston@epw.senate.gov>, "Fox, Thomas (EPW)" <Thomas_Fox@epw.senate.gov>
Subject: E&E: Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled mine sludge on purpose

Utah lawmakers say EPA spilled

mine sludge on purpose

Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Two Utah lawmakers want the state's attorney general to investigate whether federal officials purposely caused a Colorado mine release that sent 3 million gallons of toxic sludge into a tributary of the San Juan River.

Attorney General Sean Reyes (R) was briefing the Utah Water Development Commission yesterday when state Sen. Margaret Dayton (R) asked whether U.S. EPA may have breached the Gold King mine to justify a Superfund designation for the site.

State Rep. Mike Noel (R) added that EPA may have caused the release in order to aid environmentalists who want to put a halt to mining.

Though neither lawmaker offered evidence to support their claims, Reyes said he would look into the matter when he meets EPA officials at the Gold King mine today to assess the damage.

Environmental groups quickly blasted the lawmakers' comments as absurd conspiracy theories.

Zach Frankel, the executive director of the Utah Rivers Council, said he faulted EPA for responding slowly to the spill but isn't worried the agency secretly wanted the toxic leak.

"To deliberately cause this would not only violate the Clean Water Act, there would be a whole set of criminal charges that could be filed," Frankel said (Brian Maffly, **Salt Lake Tribune**, Aug. 18). -- SP